

Appl. No. : 10/024,655
Filed : December 14, 2001

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated March 11, 2004, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-4 as unpatentable over Kyoya in view of one or more of Rickenbach and Anderson. The Examiner has indicated that Claim 5 would be allowable if written in independent form.

With this response, Claims 1 and 5 have been amended. Claim 5 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the numerical aperture of the lens is about 0.25 or more, in addition to being less than the numerical aperture of the multimode fiber. Support for this amendment can be found on Page 10 of the specification as filed.

Discussion of Claim Rejections

The applicant respectfully submits that Kyoya fails to teach or suggest that the fiber side lens NA should be about 0.25 or more as claimed in amended Claim 1. The inventors have found an advantageous range of NA for a multi-mode fiber which is especially advantageous in automotive applications. This is not taught or suggested by Kyoya, which uses a fiber side lens NA of no more than 0.1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1 is respectfully requested. As Claims 2-4 depend from Claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also in condition for allowance.

Discussion of Claim 5

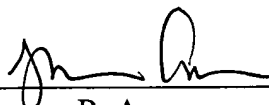
Claim 5 has been amended to be independent. It is respectfully submitted that Claim 5 as amended is also in condition for allowance.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 6/11/04

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